

Eighth Judicial District Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Jail/Pre-trial Services Emergency Subcommittee Meeting

Via Google Meet

Friday, October 23, 2020

Minutes

- I. Call to Order by Judge Shannon at 1:05 PM, Roll Call
- II. Covid-19 and effects on the the Taos County Adult Detention Center
 - i. Lloyd Garcia of the Taos Police Department speaking on behalf of Chief Wentz, who was unable to attend, stated that they would like to see a definite plan of processing, booking and release protocol for detainees during the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - ii. Sheriff Hogrefe stated that whether detainees are booked or brought in through the sally port, Conditions of Release should be handed to defendant prior to release. Many defendants are being released with no conditions and not showing up in court; there needs to be some semblance of the booking process;
 - iii. Dominic Lucero of the New Mexico State Police stated that there is no desire to keep petty crime offenders in the TCADC, NMSP have been instructed to only make arrests on the following offenses: violent felony, DUI, DV, warrant signed by a judge and 122G's; however, repeat offenders who are being released and reoffending should be detained;
 - iv. Mr. Aleksandar Kostich, representing the Public Defenders office was in agreement that custodial arrests must be scrutinized and that the issuance of Summons to Appear can help minimize the inmates at the TCADC during this pandemic;
 - v. Mr. Brent Jaramillo, who was in attendance through a cell phone being held up to the computer at the TCADC, stated that the TCADC is adhering to all COVID-19 safe handling practices, TCADC has 14 vacancies currently and not enough staff to maintain the facility. TCADC is currently staffing only 4 employees per shift and had 15 excused absences in one-week period with some employees working 180 hours per pay period;
 - vi. TCADC staff expressed the difficulty in complying with the Supreme Court Orders of COVID-19 protocol being that there are 5 cells in booking and a 10-14 day

required quarantine upon booking, there is not enough staff or cells to quarantine safely.

III. Possible solutions for overcrowding at the Taos County Adult Detention Center during COVID-19 Pandemic

- i. Judge Blankenhorn suggested a 48-hour limit between booking/release and appearance, upon a judge's approval a personal data form will be available for documentation of the order to appear within 48 hours at the clerks office in the Taos County Courthouse. A Failure to Appear warrant will be issued if the defendant does not appear within the 48 hours, defendants with out- of -district jurisdiction warrants must be booked into TCADC;
- ii. Judge Shannon along with Judge Chavez and Judge Blankenhorn emphasized that they are available 24/7 to answer phone calls regarding the release of defendants;
- iii. The issue of safe transport of detainees to TCADC from other jurisdictions will be resolved by requiring a video conference prior to transport;
- iv. Leroy Vigil and Brent Jaramillo stated they are willing to hire off duty law enforcement officers to work at TCADC during this shortage of employees.

IV. Adjourn at 1:49 PM